

Serial No. 10/784,054
60130-2012;02MRA0356

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for manufacturing a vehicle body panel, comprising:
applying a plastic film onto a reverse side of a film-like exterior covering;
hardening the plastic film; and
applying a back-foamed layer on top of the hardened plastic film.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the film is applied by a spraying process.
3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of applying the back-foamed layer comprises:
applying liquid plastic onto the plastic film after the hardening step; and
foaming the liquid plastic to form the back-foamed layer on the plastic film.
4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising adding fibers to the back-foamed layer.
5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the fibers are added by a long fiber injection method.
6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the fibers are added by placing a fiber mat onto the hardened plastic film before the step of applying the back-foamed layer.
7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the fibers are added by being mixed with a material used to form the back-foamed layer.

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8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the exterior covering is disposed in an open foam die, and wherein the steps of applying the plastic film, hardening the plastic film, and applying the back-foamed layer are conducted in the open foam die.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8, further comprising placing at least one insert into the open foam die before the step of applying the back-foamed layer, wherein said at least one insert is embedded into the back-foamed layer after the step of applying the back-foamed layer.

10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the open foam die comprises an upper mold half and a lower mold half, and wherein the step of applying the back-foamed layer comprises molding the back-foamed layer against the upper mold half to form varying thicknesses in the back-foamed layer.

11-21 (Cancelled)

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Please add the following new claims:

22. (New) A method for manufacturing a vehicle body panel, comprising:
applying a plastic film onto a reverse side of a film-like exterior covering;
hardening the plastic film;
applying a back-foamed layer on top of the hardened plastic film; and
adding fibers to the back-foamed layer.
23. (New) The method as recited in Claim 22, wherein the fibers are added by a long fiber injection method.
24. (New) The method as recited in Claim 22, wherein the fibers are added by placing a fiber mat onto the hardened plastic film before the step of applying the back-foamed layer.
25. (New) The method as recited in Claim 22, wherein the fibers are added by being mixed with a material used to form the back-foamed layer.
26. (New) A method for manufacturing a vehicle body panel, comprising:
applying a plastic film onto a reverse side of a film-like exterior covering, wherein the exterior covering is disposed in an open foam die;
hardening the plastic film; and
applying a back-foamed layer on top of the hardened plastic film,
wherein the steps of applying the plastic film, hardening the plastic film, and applying the back-foamed layer are conducted in the open foam die.
27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 26, further comprising placing at least one insert into the open foam die before the step of applying the back-foamed layer, wherein said at least one insert is embedded into the back-foamed layer after the step of applying the back-foamed layer.

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28. (New) The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the open foam die comprises an upper mold half and a lower mold half, and wherein the step of applying the back-foamed layer comprises molding the back-foamed layer against the upper mold half to form varying thicknesses in the back-foamed layer.